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# We Are ... Marshall, March 19, 2004

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# ***We Are...Marshall!***

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • MARCH 19, 2004

## ***Drinko Symposium, Alumni Weekend Set for April 1-3***

It will be a swinging time on campus as Alumni Weekend, using the theme, "Swing Time" and with some new events added ranging from academic to athletic, runs April 2-3. In addition, several events



sponsored by the John Deaver Drinko Academy will coincide with Alumni Week-

end activities as part of the Academy's Celebration of Academics.



Dr. W. Edwin  
Bingham

The Drinko Symposium will be held Thursday, April 1, at 2 p.m. and will feature Dr. W. Edwin Bingham, the Drinko fellow who is Professor of Music and director of the Marshall University Jazz Program. His topic will be "Reflections From the Bridge: Observation of the Creative Process." The presentation

takes place in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse and is free and open to the public. A reception in the lobby will follow.

### ***In Memoriam: John A. Singley***

John A. Singley, Professor of Safety, who had been with Marshall since 1987, died March 8. Services were held in Chesapeake, Ohio.

Born in Hazleton, Pa, he served as Chief Toxicologist for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Army Chemical Laboratory in Hanau, Germany, during the Korean Conflict. He received a B.A. degree in Biology from Lehigh University, and M.S. and Ph. D. degrees in Biology from Wayne State University. He served as Safety and Industrial Hygiene Manager for Huntington Works, BASF Corp. before joining the Marshall faculty.

He was a member of the Board of Directors of the World Safety Organization; a Registered Professional Industrial Hygienist; a Certified Safety Professional and a Certified Safety Executive. He was one of the facilitators of the joint program between Marshall's Environmental

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Jane Alexander

Actress Jane Alexander, former president of the National Endowment for the Arts, will be the featured speaker when the Elizabeth Gibson Drinko Honors Convocation convenes April 2 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Her topic will be "Arts and Minds." This is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event which honors all students who

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## ***Virginia Nelson is Employee of the Month***

Virginia (Jenny) Nelson, Administrative Secretary, Senior, in the department of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics in the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, has been selected as the Marshall University Employee of the Month for February, 2004, according to Jim Stephens, chair of the Employee of the Month Committee.

An employee of the university for 7 years, she was nominated by faculty members Dr. Susan H. Jackman, Dr. Donald Primerano, Dr. Gary Wright, and Dr. Hongwei Yu, and Dr. Billy Howard, director of the Animal Resource Facility.

In their nomination, Jackman, Primerano, and Yu wrote: "Jenny is one of those individuals who is

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Jenny Nelson poses with faculty members who nominated her for the Employee of the Month. From left to right: Dr. Hongwei Yu; Dr. Donald Primerano; Dr. H. Keith Spears, who made the presentation; Nelson; Dr. Billy Howard; and Dr. Susan Jackman. Dr. Gary Wright, not pictured, also participated in the nomination.

# Alumni Awards Featured April 3

Eleven Marshall alumni and students will be honored at this spring's Alumni Awards banquet April 3, which highlights the annual Alumni Weekend Friday and Saturday, April 2 and 3 on the Huntington campus.

The Distinguished Alumni Award will be presented to attorney William "Bill" Willis and CNN news correspondent Sean Callebs. The award is given to Marshall alumni for outstanding national achievements in their particular fields of endeavor.

The Community Achievement Award will be presented to educator William Smith and speech pathologists Jaqueline "Jackie" Scaggs Frazier and Vickie Hinzman Pullins. This award is given to alumni for success in their fields of endeavor and personal contributions to their respective communities.

The Distinguished Service to the Community Award will be presented to businessmen Gary G. White and Joseph L. Williams, Jr.

## John Marshall Film to Premiere

"John Marshall: Citizen, Statesman, and Jurist," a film two years in the making, will premiere Sunday, April 4, at 3:30 p.m. in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse.

Narrated by Marshall graduate Joe Johns, until recently a longtime correspondent for NBC and now affiliated with CNN, the film celebrates the life and legacy of the fourth Chief Justice of the U.S. for whom Marshall University is named.

The film was produced by MotionMasters, whose CEO is Diana Sole, a Marshall graduate.

The event, which is sponsored by the John Deaver Drinko academy, is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the screening.

The Carolyn B. Hunter Distinguished Faculty Service Award will be given to Dr. Marcia Harrison, Professor of Biological Sciences.

The Nancy Pelphrey Herd Village Scholarships, will be awarded to Michaelyn Ann Butcher, Class of 2006, and Nicholas Slate, Class of 2005. Butcher will receive the Cheerleader Scholarship and Slate will receive the Marching Band Scholarship.

The Cam Henderson Scholarship Award will be given to John Ryan Stewart, a senior from Barboursville and a member of the Thundering Herd golf team.

In addition to individual awards, the Boone County (W.Va.) Friends of Marshall Club has been chosen as the Alumni Association Club for the second consecutive year.

## Marshall to Host Life Sciences Symposium

Visiting scientists from several institutions will take part in a mini-symposium, *Frontiers in Life Science: From DNA to Organism*, on Marshall University's Huntington campus March 29 beginning at 10 a.m. in room 402 of the Drinko Library.

The symposium is part of the Visiting Scientist Seminar Series in which research-based faculty recruit established mentors to come to Marshall to present areas of their work. It is being organized by Marshall's department of Biological Sciences and is sponsored by the National Science Foundation's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) and the Yeager Scholars program. The presentations are open to the public.

The symposium will promote the use of research as an essential tool for education at Marshall, according to Dr. Philippe Georgel, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences.

"We have had the privilege of getting internationally recognized scientists to accept our invitation," said Georgel. "The topics covered during the various seminars will broadly reflect the interests of the various Biological Sciences hosts. The participants will present cutting-edge investigation on molecular and cell biology, genetics, and physiology."

The schedule of presenters and their institutions includes:

10 a.m. – Dr. Richard Niles, Retinoid Nuclear Receptors, Marshall University School of Medicine.

11 a.m. – Dr. Laurinda Jaffe, Signal Transduction, University of Connecticut Health Center.

2 p.m. – Dr. Donald Thomason, "MAPK-dependent solute transport in mammalian skeletal muscle," University of Tennessee Memphis

3 p.m. – Dr. Paul Adler, "Planar Polarity in the *Drosophila* Wing," University of Virginia.

4 p.m. – Dr. Ken van Holde, "Chromatin Modeling and Remodeling," Oregon State University.

## We Are...Marshall!

Published by University Communications, with offices in Huntington (213 Old Main) and South Charleston (312 Administration Building).

The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of April 2, 2004.

Deadline is March 26. Articles or other materials for consideration should be sent to Pat Dickson, editor, at the South Charleston campus or by e-mail to [pdickson@marshall.edu](mailto:pdickson@marshall.edu).



## Profile: Lahoma Weekley

*A series on interesting Marshall University people.*



Lahoma Weekley

She has a rich, rolling laugh and a decidedly cheery attitude, even early on a gloomy, late winter day.

And early for Lahoma Weekley is the operative word. By 6 a.m. most week-day mornings—5:30 for her on Mondays—she and her crew of four day-shift custodians are working swiftly to unlock all the academic

buildings, turn on lights, activate the elevators and do all the preparatory work to get the buildings ready as the campus begins to spring to life beginning around 7:30 a.m.

Her day starts early—she gets up at 4:30 a.m.—but “I love it ... I like the early hours; I’m a real morning person!” the ebullient Weekley maintains.

She’s been the supervisor of the day custodians for the past six years, but she’s been with Marshall for 26 years, starting out as a service worker and working her way up to the position of supervisor. Most of those years were spent on evening and midnight shifts so it’s been a treat being able to finally spend time with her husband of 30 years, James, and their son, Jimmy, a Marshall graduate who went on to complete a nursing degree and is now a R.N.

The custodians’ day is just beginning after the 21 buildings are readied for business, Weekley says. They perform a wide assortment of duties that vary day to day. “We take care of anything that needs to be done. We replace lights, resupply the bathrooms, clean floors. When there are special remodeling projects, we go in and strip and wax the floors if they need them. We also do outside work, help shovel snow. We take care of the Drinko Plaza and two or three times a year we power spray the plaza to get off the grime and dirt. We clean the bricks, tables and we do all the glass. It takes all day to clean the glass but we stay at it until we’re done. And we pick up plenty of cigarette butts!”

And Weekley works right alongside with “my guys,” as she calls her all-male crew. “I wouldn’t ask them to do a job I wouldn’t do,” she says emphatically. “I depend on them and they are a great group ... We have an excellent attendance record because we all know if one of us isn’t here, it’s really hard on everyone else. So I jump in to help do anything that needs to be done.”

The worst job for the crew is the cleanup after an abatement—asbestos removal—according to Weekley. “I hate that job, it’s the worst thing we do and a lot of work, but it has to be done, so we do it.”

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## Virginia Nelson

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a joy to work with. She is extremely dependable and well organized ... Jenny is a self-starter and often goes beyond what would be considered normal tasks. Recently, she was instrumental in helping the Animal Resource Facility and the Department of Physiology when they were short-staffed. How she was able to assist them and still accomplish all that we asked is phenomenal. We believe this speaks to her extraordinary capacity for hard work.”

In addition, they note, “Jenny is a sensitive and caring individual. She has a well-developed professional demeanor blended with a natural understanding of how to interact favorably with faculty, students and other staff members. She is an asset in any capacity that requires ‘meeting the public.’”

They conclude, “...she is a first-rate employee and member of the Marshall community.”

Wright cites Nelson’s “exceptional work record and her unfailing concern and helpfulness to her coworkers. Virginia is consistently dependable, exceptionally competent and more than willing to help others at a level which often exceeds her job requirement.”

Howard wrote, “I have found her to be highly motivated, extremely honest, of utmost integrity and a professional at all times. I am impressed with her dedication and firm sense of purpose. She does not hesitate to perform any tasks assigned her. She is a self-starter and does not need constant supervision to perform her job correctly and in a timely manner.”

He said during a period when the Animal Resource Facility was without an administrative secretary, because of Nelson’s willingness to assume extra duties and her commitment, the Facility was able to function without interruption until the position could be filled.

She was presented with a plaque, a balloon bouquet and a check for \$100, by Dr. H. Keith Spears, Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

## Governor’s Summit on Alcohol Use Set for April 5

The Governor’s Summit on Alcohol Use in Higher Education is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, April 5 in the Memorial Student Center. Registration begins at 8 a.m.

Representatives from West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control, Governor’s Highway Traffic Safety, the Prevention Resource Network and campus communities from around the state will participate.

The annual summit began last year as a way for colleges around the state and the Alcohol Beverage

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## **Lahoma Weekley** *from Page 3*

A native of Huntington, Weekley came to Marshall following a stint at Huntington State Hospital, where she began work on the housekeeping staff and eventually become a supervisor. She took some time off following the birth of her son and when she was ready to return to work, came to Marshall where she joined her mother, Marcella Black, who also worked on the custodial staff. Her mother retired from Marshall but died tragically in a car accident only two years after her retirement. "So we didn't get to enjoy her retirement for very long," Weekley says sadly.

After years of evening and midnight shifts, it's a treat for her to finally be working during the day and being able to spend more time with her husband, who works days at Justice Glass Co., and their son. She loves being at home, which sports a display of her 60-plus porcelain dolls. She's been collecting dolls for the past several years and she regularly receives them as gifts.

"My favorite ones are Gibson girls but I have all kinds. My son just gave me a Scarlett O'Hara doll. And I have one that is life-size, almost as tall as I am."

She loves the outdoors and on many weekends, heads for a farm in Culloden owned by her nephew, Greg, who works in the Marshall electrical shop, and his wife, Karen, who is the police officer for the South Charleston campus. On their spacious farm she can enjoy the outdoors and their menagerie, which includes horses.

With spring and summer fast approaching, the work of the custodians will not slow down at all. In fact, summer can be among their busiest times because repair and remodeling work are often done then when classes are more sparse. And last summer Weekley was given the added responsibility of supervising a group of Marshall students who had been sentenced to do community service for underage drinking offenses.

Their work actually went very well, Weekley says. "They were very respectful to me. I had them cleaning windows, cleaning steps, picking up litter and they were polite and cooperative ... even though I know it must have been embarrassing for some of them to have friends see them doing all these chores. After working hard one day, one student said, 'I wouldn't want to be a custodian' ... But I think the experience did them some good and they will remember."

Hard work comes naturally to the fun-loving Weekley. "I was born the seventh out of nine children and I've worked hard all my life at whatever I do. My family all live in the Huntington area or nearby so we get together for big family gatherings. I have huge cookouts at our home in the summer and we spend a lot of holidays together."

Marshall has been good to her family, she says reflectively. "Members of my family have worked here, my son graduated from here, and I've enjoyed my job and the people I work with. People have treated me very well here. I'm very family oriented and I think most people here are as well. For me, my family is my life."

## **Drinko Symposium, Alumni Weekend**

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have distinguished themselves academically throughout the year.

The first official event of Alumni Weekend is a champagne reception at the home of president Dan Angel for individuals who have contributed to the Erickson Alumni Center Campaign.

For those who want a preview of the upcoming football season, the annual green and white scrimmage, which marks the end of spring practice, is scheduled for 4 p.m. at the Joan C. Edwards Stadium at a cost of \$5 per person.

Saturday evening, the President's Social will be held at the Memorial Student Center Plaza from 6 to 6:45 p.m. to be followed by the annual alumni banquet honoring distinguished alumni and friends in the Don Morris Room at 7 p.m. In keeping with this year's theme, swing time entertainment will be featured throughout the evening. The cost for this event is \$40 or \$70 per couple.

## **Governor's Summit**

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Control Administration to discuss ways to reduce high risk drinking on college campuses and in their communities.

"It is a great opportunity for campuses and their communities to come together and learn about effective strategies for a variety of alcohol abuse issues," Carla Lapelle, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, said.

"We want to get together and discuss ways for campuses to reduce alcohol abuse," said Amy Saunders with the Marshall student health education programs.

Those interested in registering can contact Saunders at ext. 4800. The event is free and lunch will be provided.

## **In Memoriam**

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Science and Safety Technology and Shawnee State University.

Long active in the Boy Scouts of America, he served annually as the safety merit badge counselor at the Marshall University Merit Badge College.

He is survived by his wife, Gail M. (Rokas) Singley; sons Stephen and Eric; brother, Wilbur Singley and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Marshall University Student Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers through the Safety Technology Department.